PAC Meeting Minutes
Feb.12
LPR 8:15-9:45 AM

Jenny Foster gave a brief overview of a new graduation committee and their work. 16 people are on a graduation cap/cord committee. There are 4 parents on the committee, one from each grade. There are also students, a school board member and some staff. Looking at equity issues. We are only KingCo school that allows decoration on caps.

Vicki Puckett is leading a class ranking committee. Should MIHS continue to have class ranking? Committee consists of parents from each grade level, students from each grade level, staff members and counselors. There will be a survey that goes out to parents. After committee reaches a consensus from the committee then recommendations will be presented to the school board.

Garick Sherburn, Admissions Advisor, UW Bothell gave a presentation “Applying to Public Universities in Washington Sate”

Key points from presentation:
- There are many factors that students should be looking for: location & size, academic programs, campus resources, campus life & activities, cost, campus visit, overall fit.
- 13 campuses for state public schools, cost of tuition for in-state students range from approx. $6800-$11,500.
- Common admission factors: cumulative GPA, grade trends (upward/consistent grades from 9th to 12th grades), senior year grades, SAT/ACT tests, essay/personal statements
- Rigor is an important factor for admissions but is only one part of the puzzle: taking more years than the standard (examples: more than 2 years of language, more than 3 years of science), AP/honors classes
• There is a difference between eligibility vs. competitiveness. “What makes me a competitive candidate?” Eligible GPA is 2.0 but not competitive.

• Tips for increasing competitiveness:
  o Take courses that meet or exceed high school requirements
  o Prepare for & achieve an above average score on the SAT/ACT (take them twice)
  o Provide thoughtful, well-written responses for essays
  o Apply early & demonstrate real interest (not as impt. for public schools)
  o Demonstrate sustained involvement
  o Follow instructions & proofread everything
  o Convey your potential contributions
  o Make direct contact with your admissions counselor

• Planning
  o Select meaningful courses
  o Utilize your resources
  o Personal statement and letters of recommendation
  o Keep track of deadlines and MEET them!
  o Take the SAT/ACT and submit scores
  o Search for scholarships (thewashboard.org)
  o Visit colleges and universities

• Questions from parents:
  - Admissions appointments-will review their scores/portfolio
  - Public schools do take international students with no US courses. They do need to meet English language proficiency.
  - Ranking system: UW asks for the ranking but it is not used to evaluate a student. Applications are never compared between students.
  - Race/ethnicity is blocked out to admissions advisors
  - Essays should be authentic and tell the students story. Best is not necessarily technical writing.
- UW is not moving to the common application any time in the near future

Nick Wold-Tardy Kiosk System
- Attendance team was formed about 18 months ago as attendance data was trending in a negative direction
- Data was inaccurate when the attendance team started to look at it
- In the last 2 weeks, there have been 31 different staff and 43 different occurrences of inaccurate reporting. This is a safety issue.
- They went to other schools and found this attendance/tardy kiosk system. Now they have a digital way for students to report in to class late. Second phase is digital check in to class.
- Nick admits that they knew there would be anxiety/stress around being tardy. Students are now adjusting to being on time.
- 365 tardies last week, 268 this week. Data is showing that the students are adjusting.
- There are no punitive measures at this point. Rumors about detention, Saturday school, taking away parking spots, taking away off-campus privileges are all not true.
- Question was asked about if students park in the band lot. Answer: they will need to walk around to get in. Students need to enter through the front vestibule.
- Second phase is to add a kiosk in each room
- Some students having anxiety moving from band halls to science or Crest and missing 4 minutes of class instead of 30 seconds due to a trip to the kiosk. Vicki tried and it’s challenging, so teachers are adapting and helping. Nick will work with different departments. This is a new system and everyone is learning as we go.
- Some kids are gaming the system (scanning at kiosk but not attending class). Staff is verifying attendance so skipping kids are getting Saturday school. May be contributing to rumor about punishment with tardiness.
• Nick Wold is working towards more transparency and consistency with the teachers

Next meeting topic: Math curriculum

Grade level questions:

Some parents and students didn’t know last lockdown drill was a drill. There is new data that drills could be harmful to students due to anxiety/stress. Superintendent of public education possibly made a statement against lockdown drills. The school must follow the law and the law requires quota of drills/year.

A parent from the PTA gun advocacy group made a statement that threat identity is the biggest research driven solution.